

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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CONFIDENTIAL SANTIAGO 7326

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UK, CI
SUBJECT: BRITISH AMBASSADOR ON UK POLICY TOWARD CHILE

NOFORN

REF: LONDON LONDON 15706, 15575

1. SUMMARY: UK AMBASSADOR TAKES STIFF LINE WITH CHILEANS; HMG IS CONTINUING LIBERAL POLICY OF ACCEPTING CHILEANS WISHING TO EMIGRATE; PRESENT DEBT RESCHEDULING AGREEMENT NOT TO BE REVOKED. END SUMMARY.

2. UK AMBASSADOR REGINALD SECONDE RETURNED LAST WEEK FROM 16-DAY STAY IN UK DURING WHICH HE SAW FOREIGN MINISTER, NUMBER OF OTHER HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS, AND WIDE RANGE OF UK PARLIAMENTARIANS. SECONDE TOLD ME HE FOUND ANTI-JUNTA SENTIMENT EXTREMELY STRONG, BUT APPEARED TO HAVE SATISFIED MOST OF HIS INTERLOCUTORS THAT HE WAS PURSUING A SATISFACTORY COURSE OF ACTION WITH CHILEAN GOVERNMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH HMG POLICY. ESSENTIALLY, HE TOOK LINE THAT COUP AGAINST ALLENDE WAS INEVITABLE OUTCOME OF CHAOS PRODUCED BY UNIDAD POPULAR, BUT THAT SINCE TAKING POWER JUNTA HAD MADE INNUMERABLE MISTAKES.

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3. SECOND TOLD ME THAT ON CALLAGHAN'S INSTRUCTIONS HE HAD

ON HIS RETURN HAD AN EXTREMELY FRANK TALK WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CARVAJAL, THE GIST OF WHICH WAS THAT UNLESS JUNTA ALTERED ITS HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR HMG TO RESTORE THE TRADITIONALLY FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WHICH HAD EXISTED BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. CARVAJAL WAS APPARENTLY IMPRESSED WITH SECONDE'S OUTSPOKENNESS (THE AMBASSADOR IS INDEED A VERY DIRECT TYPE).

4. PARALLELING CASE OF AMCIT MRS. O'FLAHERTY, WHO WAS RECENTLY DETAINED BY GOC AUTHORITIES FOR TEN DAYS WITHOUT NOTIFICATION TO EMBASSY OFFICIALS, SECONDE STATED UK EMBASSY HAD VERY GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A BRITISH WOMAN WAS CURRENTLY BEING HELD AT TRES ALAMOS INVESTIGATION CENTER, NEAR SANTIAGO. HIS CONSULS ARE ACTIVELY AT WORK ON THIS CASE, AND ALSO ON CASE OF A DUAL NATIONAL NOW UNDER DETENTION.

5. SECONDE STATES THAT DURING LAST FEW MONTHS HIS EMBASSY HAS BEEN RECEIVING FORTY TO FIFTY APPLICATIONS EACH WEEK FOR MIGRATION TO THE UK, CONSISTING IN PART OF "ECONOMIC REFUGEES" AND IN PART ON THOSE "ON THE RUN." UK GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN GENEROUS IN GRANTING PERMISSION TO SETTLE IN UK, BUT NOT ALL THOSE RECEIVING PERMITS ACTUALLY USE THEM. IN RECENT WEEKS UK HAS HELD UP ACTION PENDING CLEARER VIEW OF LARGE SCALE DETAINEE RELEASES ENVISAGED BY JUNTA, SO THAT A NUMBER OF ACCEPTABLE FREED DETAINEES MIGHT BE PERMITTED TO ENTER UK. AS CONFIRMED IN SEPTEL (NOTAL), HOWEVER, CHILEAN DETAINEE RELEASE POLICY HAS BOGGED DOWN.

6. SECONDE CONFIRMED EMBASSY LONDON SURMISE THAT HMG WILL NOT REVOKE EXISTING CHILEAN DEBT RESCHEDULING AGREEMENT. HE AGREES IT UNLIKELY HMG WILL AGREE TO ANY FURTHER RESCHEDULING.
POPPER

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